

REMARKS

In response to the objection to claim 18 we have amended the claim to conform to the Examiner's comment.

In response to the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection of claims 2, 5 and 8 we have revised said claims to overcome the rejection as we believe will be immediately apparent from a glance at the amendments made herein. The indefiniteness of claim 12 has also been corrected.

With respect to the 102(b) rejection of claims 1-4 and 15-17 we point out that Eickhof '781 cannot be read on these claims either literally or substantively. For example Eickhof '781 clearly lacks a rigid supporting structure located behind his "shutter 16" and, further, fastening means located below the upper edge of his shutter 16. Referring specifically to claim 17, Eickhof '781 further lacks an access aperture extending through the visible face of the stone object and under no conditions can it be said that Eickhof's '781 shutter 16 is secured to any support structure using a tool inserted into a (non-existent) access aperture.

With respect to the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 5, 6 and 8 on Eickhof '781, read alone or in conjunction with the skill in the art, such combination does not teach or remotely suggest a rigid stationary supporting structure located behind Eickhof's '781 shutter 16 (his supporting structure is the soffit 18 located above his shutter 16), nor fastening means located entirely below the upper edge of his shutter 16, nor any access hole extending through the visible face of his shutter 16. In the presence of these deficiencies it is

respectfully submitted that the requisite basis for a 103(a) rejection has not been made out.

With respect to the 103(a) rejection of claims 9-11 and 18-20 under Eickhof '781 over Amis we note that this combination does not teach or remotely suggest a rigid stationary supporting structure located behind Eickhof's '781 shutter 16, nor fastening means located entirely below the upper edge of his shutter 16, nor any access aperture extending through the visible face of the shutter 16. While Amis shows a form of torx screwdriver, this reference contributes absolutely nothing to the above listed deficiencies of Eickhof '781, and hence the combination, no matter how construed, does not meet the obviousness standard of 103(a).

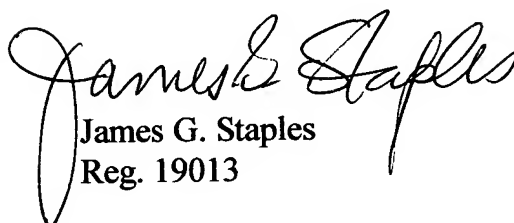
The Examiner will note that, for the moment, we have not redrafted claims 12-14 into stand alone form since we believe that since the base claims from which these claims depend are not properly art rejected it is not necessary at this time to rewrite them. The existence of their allowable subject matter is noted.

It is respectfully submitted that the application, in its current condition, is in appropriate condition for the indication of the allowability of the claims, and such action is requested at the Examiner's early convenience.

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Respectfully submitted,
LOZART INDUSTRIES


James G. Staples
Reg. 19013

James G. Staples, Esq.
586 Ingleside Park
Evanston, IL 60201
(847) 475-4279
(847) 491-1552 (fax)